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United States Department of State

Under Secretary of State
for Global Affairs

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May 27, 1994

RELEASED IN FULL

TO: The Secretary
FROM: G - Timothy E. Wirth
SUBJECT: May 23 - 27, 1994

I met with Cardinal O'Connor on Friday morning to talk about how best to minimize our differences regarding the Cairo conference on population. O'Connor took an extremely hard line, but was ultimately constructive. For example, he said it would be the "gravest mistake" for the President to meet with the Pope without giving further thought to the U.S. position, saying emphatically the Church's concerns "are not a matter of a few semantic differences." He noted that Ambassador Flynn had urged a photo of "the President and a smiling Pope," but felt that no photo would be better than one that could only reveal how seriously troubled the Pope is about the conference. He urged that the President recognize the Pope's concerns and be responsive to them. On the other hand, he also said he hoped trust could be restored and that he would cooperate in any way to avoid a collision.

I headed our delegation to the second annual session of the U.N. Council on Sustainable Development this week, where I worked closely with Carol Browner and her staff among others to press for a prohibition on the use of leaded gasoline worldwide, a ban on exports of outlawed pesticides and development of global indicators to determine environmental sustainability. We made progress as well on a broad forest preservation initiative.

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Hayashi, MITI Vice Minister Okamatsu and I met on Tuesday in a successful effort to restart our Common Agenda talks. We agreed to focus from now until the July Summit on projects to: eradicate polio in developing countries; develop and distribute a children's vaccine; protect and preserve forests, coral reefs and wetlands; and address narcotics issues. We will also try to complete an agreement defining IPR rules for public/private research and development on advanced technology.

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4-Memo to Secretary Jan - May 1994

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Human Rights, Democracy and Labor

John Shattuck, Win Lord and Mort Halperin met for over two hours today with twenty representatives of human rights NGO's active on China issues. The meeting was candid, with the NGO participants venting steam about their considerable disappointment with the president's MFN decision. But they also expressed appreciation for our sincerity and sustained effort in pursuit of human rights improvements in China. And they noted as a real plus our willingness to meet regularly with them, even at times of severe disagreement; they are clearly interested in continuing the dialogue. There is definite interest in a business code of conduct; the NGO's want to work with us on its development.

The UNHRC Special Session on Rwanda this week adopted by consensus a resolution calling for the appointment of a special rapporteur, who will investigate and report within four weeks on human rights violations in Rwanda, and for the deployment of human rights monitors to assist the special rapporteur. The resolution affirms individual accountability for human rights abuses. It requests the special rapporteur to look at possible breaches of international humanitarian law, "including acts of genocide." Rene Degnisegui, dean of the law faculty at the University of Abidjan, was appointed to the special rapporteur position. This is an important step forward for our multilateral human rights policy.

Population, Refugees and Migration

Prime Minister Patterson has given his agreement in principle to our operating an aboard ship refugee processing facility in a Jamaican port. A PRM led interagency team is in Kingston to negotiate a memorandum of understanding to pin down operational details. DOD is outfitting a 1000 bed hospital ship, which together with a 700 bed leased commercial vessel, will provide at least a basic facility. The plan now is to move approved asylum applicants from Jamaica to Guantanamo Bay for a medical screening before handing them over to private voluntary agencies in the U.S. Turks and Caicos officials will permit us to anchor a vessel offshore, but Jamaica's facilities are safer and more convenient.

Oceans, Environment and Science

Our delegation to this year's annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission won approval for the establishment of an Antarctic whaling sanctuary. Covering an area of some eight million square miles, commercial whaling is

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banned within the sanctuary--roughly all waters around Antarctica from 40 degrees South, except in the immediate vicinity of South America. Progress was also made on a revised management scheme for commercial whaling, designed to reduce tensions between whaling and non-whaling states, but work is still needed to complete an inspection scheme and on data assessment. Finally, our Alaskan Inuit expect approval of their request for a new three year quota for bowhead whales.

Elinor Constable accompanied the Vice President, Strobe Talbott and Jim Collins to a meeting on the Space Station with HFAC members, including Hamilton, Gilman and Lantos. Al Gore made a strong presentation on the benefits to the U.S. of Russian involvement, with Strobe noting that the joint project supports demilitarization and denuclearization in Russia. Questions from members focussed on costs, the risk of a change in Russian leadership, and whether we had an alternative big science project that could serve as a vehicle for international cooperation if support for the project is withdrawn.

Narcotics and Crime

FBI Director Louis Freeh will lead a senior law enforcement delegation, including INM's Bob Gelbard, to Eastern Europe and several former Soviet states in late June/early July. Freeh wants to focus U.S. attention on mushrooming crime in Eastern Europe. A sensitive issue is Freeh's desire to make a public address at Auschwitz; EUR and S/NIS think it is a bad idea.

Next Week's Agenda

- o A Russian team arrives on Tuesday for counter terrorism discussions, the first such bilateral discussions since 1992. The meeting will focus on civilian aircraft security and hijacking response procedures, as well as contingency planning for a nuclear terrorist incident. The Russians have already informed us that they would like to participate in a joint working group.
- o Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali will reconvene consultations on the Law of the Sea Treaty on May 31, to, I expect, reach final agreement on deep seabed mining provisions. The General Assembly would then reconvene in late July to adopt the revised text and open it for signature. The SFRC is expected to begin oversight hearings in late June.

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